

Appendix C – Exchange Contactors Letter



Consisting of 240,000 acres on the Westside of the San Joaquin Valley

January 15, 2010

JAMES E. O'BANION
Chairman

ROY CATANIA
Vice Chairman

STEVE CHEDESTER
Executive Director

LARRY FREEMAN
Water Resources Specialist

JOANN TOSCANO
Administrative Assistant

**MINASIAN, SPRUANCE,
MEITH, SOARES &
SEXTON LLP**
Legal Counsel

VIA EMAIL & U.S. MAIL

Mr. Michael Jackson
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1243 N Street
Fresno, CA 93721-1813

Ms. Frances Mizuno
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Post Office Box 2157
Los Banos, CA 93635

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

James E. O'Banion
President

Christopher White
General Manager

**SAN LUIS CANAL
COMPANY**

James L. Nickel
President

Chase Hurley
General Manager

**FIREBAUGH CANAL
WATER DISTRICT**

Mike Stearns
President

Jeff Bryant
General Manager

**COLUMBIA CANAL
COMPANY**

Roy Catania
President

Randy Houk
General Manager

P.O. Box 2115
541 H Street
Los Banos, CA 93635
(209) 827-8616
Fax (209) 827-9703
e-mail: jtoscanao@sjrecwa.net
Website: www.sjrecwa.net

RE: **2010 DMC Pumping**

Dear Michael and Frances:

This letter is to confirm the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority's (Exchange Contractors) approval of your request to continue the DMC pumping program in 2010. As a result of subsidence effects being determined in 2008, this year's program must continue to include that no pumping will be allowed in Management Areas 2 and 3.

As you know, a joint groundwater study between the Central California Irrigation District, the City of Los Banos and the United States Bureau of Reclamation is currently being conducted in the Los Banos aquifer subarea due to significant groundwater concerns. The study and its recommendations are anticipated to be completed in March 2010. Due to the regulatory pumping restrictions that are being implemented on the Jones Pumping Plant, we can appreciate the SLDMWA's need to begin the environmental review process for the 2010 DMC Pumping Program; however, we must reserve the right to amend this approval letter pending the outcome of the joint groundwater study.

The Exchange Contractors' Board approval for this pumping program is based upon the conditions set forth below:

1. Any well that is proposed to pump into the lower DMC must obtain a current water quality analysis. The analysis shall consist of Ag Suitability and selenium, plus any other constituents the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) may require. (Wells may be pumped for 24

Mr. Michael Jackson
Ms. Frances Mizuno
RE: **2010 DMC Pumping**
January 15, 2010
Page 2

hours in order to get the initial sample for water quality testing.) These tests will be conducted on a monthly basis for the duration of the pumping period. From our perspective, pumping may begin once we have received copies of current lab test results for salinity and selenium, recognizing the other constituents may take longer to obtain the lab results.

2. Only wells that test at 1,500 ppm TDS or less at the well head will be allowed.
3. Only wells that test at 2 ppb selenium or less at the well head will be allowed.
4. The calculated degradation caused by the lower DMC wells shall not exceed 30 ppm. (The model developed by USBR during the 2008 and 2009 pumping program shall be used and USBR shall provide at least weekly updates of the reports to the Exchange Contractors.)
5. At any time, the wells in the lower DMC will be shut off if the measured water quality at Check 20 on the DMC exceeds 450 ppm TDS in a single day. The wells may resume pumping after the average water exceedence no longer exists for 3 days. Wells with water quality at the well head of 450 TDS or less would be allowed to continue to pump and would not be subject to this restriction.
6. The water would be credited to the receiving district as a whole, not for specific growers.
7. The wells will only run through February 28, 2011.

If you agree with the program as outlined, and before any additional lower DMC pumping commences, we request that each of your agencies confirm in writing to the program described above. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Steve Chedester

cc: San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Members
Paul Minasian, Esq.